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California Polytechnic State University

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Poly Reps Launch True Mustang Night with a Kissing Chain

Poly Reps, a student group with 30 members who serve as university ambassadors and spirit leaders, will establish a new tradition at this year's Open House: True Mustang Night, where students can become "True Mustangs" with a kiss under a full moon at the stroke of midnight.

"Several other universities have a similar tradition and it's a real university spirit builder," said Poly Rep Joel Conn. He explained how the tradition works: once a month on the night of the full moon, students, faculty and alumni gather in the middle of their campus. At midnight, those present are kissed by a 'True Aggie' or a 'True Cardinal' and they become one themselves.

"It's a tradition that's been going on for more than 100 years at some campuses. We think this will be great new spirit-raising tradition for Cal Poly and a great tradition for a new century," Conn said.

The Poly Reps think it's a fine tradition to bring to Cal Poly, starting at Open House 2002. The first True Mustang Night at Cal Poly is scheduled April 19 from 11:30 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. April 20, at the Cal Poly Mustang statue at Grand Avenue and Perimeter Way outside the University Union.

At midnight, True Mustangs gathered at the Mustang statue will start the kissing tradition. "Ordinarily it would work with upperclassmen kissing underclassmen" to convey True Mustang status, Conn explained.

"But since this is the first time, the True Mustang Night ceremony will have a kissing chain. The True Mustang kiss will begin with a special guest and pass from person to person down the chain," Conn said.

Faculty, staff, alumni and students can all participate, regardless of their year or class. "We suggest everyone come on out for a midnight kiss -- no partner required."

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Note to Editors: To interview Conn about the inaugural True Mustang ceremony, contact Teresa Hendrix at thendrix@calpoly.edu or (805) 756-7266.

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